

10/782,451

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A dental restoration, comprising:
 - a base structure (16) formed of a selected one of a single member and multiple members, the base structure being adapted to be placed over a prepared tooth stump;
 - a pre-fabricated comparatively hard over structure (24) which, when assembled with the base structure (16), at least partially covers the base structure (16), the over structure (24) having at least one pre-configured bite element (38) having a predetermined bite surface; and
 - a coupling element for coupling the base structure (16) and the over structure (24) with one another, the coupling element preferably including an interconnecting material (26) which interconnects the base structure (16) and the over structure (24) the interconnecting material being light-polymerizable, the [[parts]] base structure, over structure, and coupling element being so designed and constructed that a time consuming firing of the assembly of the base structure, over structure, and coupling element can be omitted.
2. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the over structure (24) includes a covering element (40) that is interconnected with the bite element (38) and extends in at least partial coverage over at least one of a lingual, buccal, mesial, and distal region of the base structure (16), the covering element (40) being interconnected to the base structure (16) via the interconnecting material (26).
3. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the interconnecting material (26) extends in a surface covering manner between the base structure (16) and the over structure (24) and, preferably, the interconnecting material (26) fills the interspatial area between the base structure (16) and the over structure (24).

4. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the over structure (24) has an inner contour that is substantially compatibly configured with respect to an outer contour of the base structure (16) and, preferably, the inner contour of the over structure (24) and the outer contour of the base structure (16) have respective circular shapes.
5. (Previously presented) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the bite element (38) extends over the entire mastication area of the dental restoration and the bite element (38) is, preferably, configured as a single member component.
6. (Currently amended) A dental restoration according to claim 2, wherein the dental restoration extends substantially to preparation borders of such teeth and, preferably, the covering element (40) covers the medial and distal sides of such teeth.
7. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the over structure (24) partially covers the base structure (16) such that a portion of the base structure (16) is uncovered, the uncovered portion of the base structure (16) being covered by an opaque-appearing material.
8. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the over structure (24) partially covers the base structure (16) such that a portion of the base structure (16) is uncovered, the uncovered portion of the base structure (16) being covered by free lying interconnecting material (26) which is exterior of the region at which the interconnecting material (26) interconnects the base structure (16) and the over structure (24).
9. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 2, wherein each respective portion of the over structure (24) formed by the bite element (38) and the covering element (40) is comprised of at least one of ceramic and plastic.
10. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 2, wherein each of the bite element (38) and the covering element (40) is comprised of ceramic.
11. (Previously presented) A dental restoration according to claim 9, wherein the covering

10/782,451

element is formed of a ceramic which is a pre-prepared ceramic and, preferably, is a selected one of an aluminum oxide ceramic, a zirconium oxide ceramic, a glass ceramic, and a mixture of such ceramics.

12. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the interconnecting material (26) is comprised of ceramic.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the base structure (16) is a selected one of a metal frame, a metal ceramic frame, a ceramic frame, a plastic frame, and a plastic fiberglass frame.

15. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the dental restoration is specifically configured for a pre-molar or a molar.

16. (Previously presented) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the bite element (38) of the over structure (24) forms a protuberance that simulates a tooth protuberance of a tooth and, preferably, a protuberance that simulates the tooth protuberance of the tooth which the dental restoration is intended to simulate.

17. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 2, wherein the over structure (24) is configured as a single member component and the bite element (38) and the covering element (40) are comprised of the same material.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the base structure (16) is securable to a selected one of a peg supported by a jaw of a dental patient receiving the dental restoration and an attachment element operable to be secured to neighboring tooth structure adjacent to a location at which the dental restoration is to be mounted.

20. (Currently amended) A method for producing a dental restoration, comprising the

10/782,451

steps of:

providing a base structure (16) which is formed of a selected one of a single member and multiple members;

providing an interconnecting material (26) which is a light polymerizable material ~~not completely activated on a base structure (16)~~;

disposing, onto the interconnecting material (26) which has been provided on the base structure (16), a pre-fabricated comparatively hard over structure (24) in a manner in which the over structure (24) at least partially covers the base structure (16), the over structure (24) having at least one pre-configured bite element (38) having a predetermined bite surface; and

after disposing the over structure (24) onto the interconnecting material (26), completely activating the interconnecting material (26) into its completely activated condition in which it securely interconnects the base structure (16) and the over structure (24) to one another, wherein the interconnecting material (26) is completely activated via irradiating with light to harden the interconnecting material (26) ~~a selected one of initiating a self hardening process by which the interconnecting material (26) organically hardens into its completely activated condition and subjecting the interconnecting material (26) to an exterior, non-organic treatment to effect hardening of the interconnecting material (26) into its completely activated condition~~, the method not requiring a time consuming firing of the [[assembly]] base structure, interconnecting material and over structure.

21. (Original) A method for producing a dental restoration according to claim 20, wherein the step of disposing the over structure (24) onto the interconnecting material (26) includes disposing an over structure (24) onto the interconnecting material (26) having an inner contour which is compatibly configured with respect to the outer contour of the base structure (16) such that the interconnecting material (26), as the over structure (24) is disposed onto the interconnecting material (26), extends into and fills the interspatial area between the base structure (16) and the over structure (24) in a manner by which the interconnecting material (26) assumes a substantially uniform thickness in the interspatial area between the base structure (16) and the over structure (24).

22. (Original) A method for producing a dental restoration according to claim 20, wherein

10/782,451

the step of disposing the over structure (24) onto the interconnecting material (26) includes disposing the over structure (24) onto the interconnecting material (26) by pressing the over structure (24) onto the not yet completely activated interconnecting material (26).

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) A method for producing a dental restoration according to claim 20 and further comprising the step of applying an opaque-appearing material over at least a portion of the base structure (16) prior to the step of providing the interconnecting material (26) on the base structure (16).

25. (Original) A method for producing a dental restoration according to claim 20 and further comprising the step of evaluating the prospective bite situation which will exist between the base structure (16) and the over structure (24) in their installed positions, the step of evaluating including evaluating the prospective bite situation before the interconnecting material (26) has been activated into its completely activated condition and, preferably, manipulating the base structure (16) and the over structure (24) relative to one another in an evaluation device that is, preferably, an articulator.

26. (Original) A method for producing a dental restoration according to claim 20, wherein the over structure (24) partially covers the base structure (16) such that a portion of the base structure (16) is uncovered and further comprising the step of covering the uncovered portion of the base structure (16) with at least one of free lying interconnecting material (26) which is exterior of the region at which the interconnecting material (26) interconnects the base structure (16) and the over structure (24) and a covering material (40).

27. (Original) A method for producing a dental restoration according to claim 20 and further comprising the step of placing the assembled over structure (24) and base structure (16) into an installed position on a selected one of a tooth stump of a tooth of the dental patient, a peg supported by a jaw of the dental patient, and an attachment element operable to be secured to neighboring tooth structure adjacent to the location at which the dental restoration is to be mounted.

28. (Original) A method for producing a dental restoration according to claim 22, wherein the step of pressing the over structure (24) onto the not yet completely activated interconnecting material (26) results in a spillover of interconnecting material (26) exteriorly of the interspatial area between the over structure (24) and the base structure (16) and further comprising the step of removing the spillover of interconnecting material (26) before the step of completely activating the interconnecting material (26) into its completely activated condition.

29. (Original) A method for producing a dental restoration according to claim 22, wherein the step of pressing the over structure (24) onto the not yet completely activated interconnecting material (26) results in a spillover of interconnecting material (26) exteriorly of the interspatial area between the over structure (24) and the base structure (16) and further comprising the step of removing the spillover of interconnecting material (26) after the step of completely activating the interconnecting material (26) into its completely activated condition.